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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF THE NEGRO WELFARE LEAGUE

Monday, December 17, 1917.

A special meeting of the Executive Committee of the Negro Welfare League was held on the above date at 13 Central Ave. Those present were Mr. A. W. MacDougall, Rev. P. D. Brown, Rev. O. M. Bonfield, Mr. A. W. Stewart, Rev. H. K. Spearman, Mr. Vandervall, Miss Pendleton, Mr. Ashby, and Mr. Stubblebine presiding. *Dr. Luck came late.* A note was sent by Mr. C. M. Brown stating illness prevented his being present.

The minutes of the meeting of the week before were read, and after some slight corrections, confirmed. No change in the financial statement.

Mr. Stewart reported that the plan for a co-operative drive for finances has been mentioned to members of the Old Folks Home and Good Samaritan Orphanage, who looked upon the matter favorably. It was therefore suggested that Mr. Stewart call a meeting as soon as possible of the Representatives of the three organizations to make plans for the purpose if possible. It was moved, seconded and carried that the committee from the League consist of Mr. A. W. Stewart, Mrs. Eugene Gregory and the Rev. R. D. Brown.

Mr. MacDougall, as temporary chairman of the Housing Committee reported that the resolutions were sent to the Board of

Trade Committee on Housing as requested at the last meeting, and that the committee will request the Russell Sage Foundation that a survey of housing conditions among the colored people of Newark be made. The Rev. Mr. Brown moved, which was duly seconded and passed, that this housing report be accepted.

The Executive Secretary, Mr. Ashby, read a letter from the National League on Urban Conditions among Negroes, stating that a conference would be held in New York City in the last three days in January, 1918, and requesting the League to send two delegates. It was also moved, seconded and carried that Mr. Ashby and Rev. R. D. Brown represent the League at the conference.

Mr. Vandervall reported that since the meeting of the Executive Committee last spring, when he was authorized to organize auxiliary groups in adjoining nearby towns, he was called away on business in New York, but after the New Year he will have more time to attend to this matter, and will take it up at no expense to the League. It was moved, seconded and carried that Mr. Vandervall's report be received with thanks.

Mr. Ashby reported progress in the work in Jersey City. The treasurer was asked to communicate with the Jersey City Treasurer with regard to paying one-third of Mr. Ashby's salary.

Mr. Stubblebine, who has accepted a call for a position in Dallas, Texas, presented his resignation as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Negro Welfare League. Mr. Vandervall

moved, which was seconded and carried, that Mr. Stubblebine's resignation be accepted with regret, and thanks for the work he has done in Newark for the League. He carries with him the best wishes of the Committee for success and happiness in his new field. Mr. Stewart moved, which was duly seconded and carried, that a token be presented to Mr. Stubblebine. This matter was placed in Mr. Stewart's charge.

The question of a chairman to succeed Mr. Stubblebine was discussed at length. Mr. Stubblebine thought the question of selecting a chairman should proceed slowly and suggested that Miss Pendleton, who had successively been executive secretary of the League and chairman of the Friendly Visitors Committee until permanent chairmen were found for these positions, be asked to take charge of the committee temporarily, and that a committee be formed to choose a chairman. Mr. Stewart thought the chairman should be a colored member of the Board, proposing the Rev. P. D. Brown. The Rev. C. M. Bonfield also concurred in this thought. Miss Pendleton stated that while Mr. Stewart's feeling that the colored people do not insist in any way to be dependent on the whites, or to belong to an organization entirely officered by white people is entirely right in principle. It is of the utmost importance that the League shall seek out and interest and educate white people of Newark who will have time and opportunity to make living conditions better for the colored people of this vicinity. The League needs the larger support of the white people who are so greatly in the majority here. She

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therefore thought the time had not yet come when the whole executive work of the committee should be turned over entirely to the colored race, and reminded the committee of the motto written by Mrs. Baldwin of the National League on Urban Conditions among Negroes, <sup>Mr. MacDougall agreed that we should go down in this matter.</sup> Mr. MacDougall stated that the President, who is a white man, has little time to give to Executive work, and Rev. F. D. Brown stated that the whole question is one of finding someone who is able to do the work, stating that he is too busy a man to take the chairmanship.

Dr. Davis Lusk, who had come to the meeting late, was asked if he would be kind enough to serve as chairman. Dr. Lusk said he hoped to give more time to the work. He was duly elected chairman of the Executive Committee.

Miss Pendleton suggested that the Secretary of the Committee who was elected when it was first organized, and who has been present at only a few meetings, be requested to notify the Executive Secretary whether she intends to continue in an office.

Mr. Ashby brought up the matter of the annual meeting. It was then moved that the chairman appoint a committee to attend to this, and he appointed Miss Pendleton, Rev. Mr. & Mrs. Gregory, Dr. Spearman.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

Helen B. Pendleton  
Secy pro tem.